

REMARKS

After entry of this amendment, claims 25, 28–37, and 40–44 will be pending. Claims 25 and 37 have been amended to include the allowable subject matter of claims 27 and 39, respectively, claims 28 and 40 have been amended to correct their dependency and to correct a typographical error, and claims 27 and 39 have been cancelled. Support for the amendments may be found in the claims and specification as filed at least at, for example, claims 27 and 39. No new matter has been added.

Claim Objections

Claims 27, 28, 39, 40, and 43 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, and the Office action indicates that they would be allowable if rewritten in independent form. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating that the subject matter of those claims is allowable and hereby amend independent claims 25 and 37, from which claims 27 and 39 depend, respectively, to include the allowable subject matter of those claims. Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 25 and 37 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,530,846 to Strong (“Strong”). Applicants hereby amend claims 25 and 37 to include the allowable subject matter of claims 27 and 39, respectively, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of these claims.

Rejection of Claims Under 35 U.S.C. § 103

Claims 25, 26, 30–33, 37, 38, and 42 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,275,544 to Aiello (“Aiello”) in view of Strong. Claim 29 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aiello in view of Strong and Applicants’ admitted prior art. Claims 34, 41, and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as

being unpatentable over Aiello in view of Strong and U.S. Patent No. 6,678,781 to Domon. Claim 35 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aiello in view of Strong and “Application Critical Parameters for Rubidium Standards” by Weidemann. Claim 36 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aiello in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,370,138 to Kim.

Applicants hereby amend claims 25 and 37 to include the allowable subject matter of claims 27 and 39, respectively, and respectfully request withdrawal of the rejection of these claims and claims dependent therefrom.

CONCLUSION

In light of the foregoing, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants believe that no fees are necessitated by the present paper. However, in the event that any fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to Deposit Account No. 07-1700.

If the Examiner believes that a telephone conversation with Applicants' attorney would expedite allowance of this application, the Examiner is cordially invited to call the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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